

Re: Declaration Statement of Assurance that the Trust is compliant with best practice and statutory requirements for Safeguarding Children

The Trust has reviewed services to ensure all necessary improvements to arrangements for safeguarding children have been made.

The Board has assessed its position against the findings of the Care Quality Commission Safeguarding Review (July 2009) and the Board is assured that best practice and statutory requirements are followed. The Board has assured itself and is satisfied that the following arrangements are in place:

- The Trust meets the statutory requirement with regard to the carrying out of Criminal Records Bureau checks.
- Child protection policies are up to date and robust, including a process for inter-agency information sharing and for following up children who miss outpatient appointments. Systems for flagging children for whom there are safeguarding concerns will be upgraded to a robust electronic version through the imminent introduction of a new patient information system.
- A review of training arrangements has taken place and a training strategy agreed. All eligible staff have undertaken and are up to date with safeguarding training at a minimum of level 1. E-learning packages to support local training are available.
- Named professionals are clear about their roles and have support to undertake them;
- There is a board level Executive Director Lead for safeguarding who is the Director of Nursing and Modernisation. The Board reviews safeguarding across the organisation at least twice a year. There are robust programmes to assure the Board of safeguarding systems and processes working effectively.

The Board will continue to monitor compliance with best practice requirements that will help to support Standards for Better Health Core Standards declaration with the Care Quality Commission. This will also form part of the build up to Registration with the Care Quality Commission in April 2010.